

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

June 21, 2004

AMENDMENT

There is a proposal to give the Sheriff's Department \$5 million to enhance jail safety, and to direct him to use \$2.5 million from the Inmate Welfare Fund for the same purpose. I support this measure because jail safety clearly is an important issue to our County.

However, I do not wish to mislead the public into thinking that "throwing money" at a problem will solve it. As made clear by the recent deaths in the jails, stronger accountability in the jails is crucial to maintaining safety. Many important questions remain unanswered. For example, what exactly has and can be done to improve accountability and safety in the jails? How exactly will the \$7.5 million be used? Does it solve the problem or are we creating false expectations for the public?

I, THEREFORE, MOVE, that the \$7.5 million for jail safety be set aside in a PFU (Provisional Financing Uses) until the Sheriff's Department submits a detailed plan outlining how decision makers are being held accountable and how the jails will benefit from the additional \$7.5 million.

MOTION

Molina

Burke

Yaroslavsky

Antonovich

Knabe

The plan should be submitted to the Board as a set item on the agenda within three weeks, and should include: (1) the number of personnel or overtime hours that will be added to the jails; (2) the exact location where the added personnel will be stationed to improve safety; (3) a list of the equipment that will be purchased with the money; (4) how these funds will help personnel follow protocols and State and Federal laws; (5) how the tracking of inmates will be improved; (6) how “pruno” will be eradicated; (7) whether or not video cameras will be purchased to help monitor inmates in cells and/or monitor interactions between deputies and inmates and, if not, why and how much they cost; (8) how personnel with unstable medical conditions will be protected upon release; and (9) any other details of the Department’s strategy to improve inmate safety.

BC/jh